



# Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment (IET)



Alcohol and other drug (AOD) dependence significantly increases the risk of serious health issues, accidents, communicable diseases, suicide and family, legal or financial issues.<sup>1</sup> Although it is often the primary care providers (PCPs), pediatricians or obstetricians who assign a patient an initial AOD dependence diagnosis, any provider (PCP, pediatrician, obstetrician, urgent care, ER, acute inpatient, partial hospitalization and all specialties) can diagnosis a member by using an AOD dependence diagnosis code.

The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS<sup>®</sup>) measure for IET requires a member, adolescents and adult members (13 years and older), diagnosed with AOD dependence to receive:

- **Initiation of AOD dependence treatment:**  
Through an outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter, partial hospitalization or AOD dependence inpatient admission, telehealth, or medication assisted treatment (MAT) within 14 days of the diagnosis.
- **Engagement of AOD dependence treatment:**  
Following the initiation phase, the member received two or more additional AOD or MAT services within 34 days of the initiation visit.

Providers can improve the IET HEDIS quality score by:

- Scheduling a visit at your practice within 14 days of the AOD dependence diagnosis date to initiate AOD dependence treatment for the patient. Have a frank discussion and provide education and counseling to adolescents and their parents, pregnant women and all adult members on the risks and health outcomes associated with alcohol and drug addiction and dependence.
- Scheduling at least two additional follow-up visits for the patient, at your practice, within 34 days of the initiation of treatment visit.

Providers can improve the IET HEDIS quality score by referral:

- If you choose to refer to a behavioral health provider, consider a timely referral within 14 days of diagnosis. Call or visit **bcbnm.com** for provider referral assistance.
- For continuity of care, notify the referral provider of the AOD dependence code utilized. The use of a non-substance diagnosis code will not count towards the measure.

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/drug-addiction/basics/complications/con-20020970 (accessed January 2018)

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The information mentioned here is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician. Health care providers are instructed to exercise their own independent medical judgment based upon the patient's medical condition and history. Regardless of benefits, the final decision about any treatment is between the member and their health care provider.

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